

Philosophy Graduate Course Offerings Summer and Fall 2022

Courses are offered face-to-face unless otherwise noted.

Summer 2022

PHIL 513 Global Justice

Professor Peter Higgins

M,T,Th 1:00 – 2:50

In-person and Online Synchronous

This is a course in global political theory and philosophy. In contrast to ethics (whose concern is the moral assessment of individual action and character), political theory/philosophy is concerned with the justice of social institutions—for example, the nation-state, the family, economic systems, gender roles, and racial classification systems.

Traditional political theory and philosophy have focused on justice within the borders of the nation-state. In contrast, this course is focused on the normative analysis of global institutions (economic, political, and social). Questions that may be considered in this course include:

- Should the interests of compatriots receive greater weight than those of foreigners in moral decision-making?
- By what policies may nation-states justly restrict immigration?
- What duties do affluent societies have to alleviate global poverty?
- Under what circumstances is humanitarian intervention justified?
- What are the appropriate boundaries of state sovereignty?
- What would a just global order look like?

PHIL 513 counts as a course in the Social Justice Division in the Philosophy M.A. Program.

Fall 2022

PHIL 543: Philosophical Approaches to Moral Psychology
Professor Michael Scoville
T/Th 2:00 – 3:15

This course examines the roles of cognition, judgment, perception, and emotion in relation to our capacities for acting responsibly. Topics may include theories of the emotions and reactive attitudes; the relationship between feeling and knowing; and virtuous and vicious motivational states in contexts of social injustice.

PHIL 543 counts as a course in the Social Justice Division of the Philosophy M.A. Program.

PHIL 580: Philosophy of Science
Professor John Koolage
T/Th 11:00 – 12:15

In this iteration of Philosophy of Science, we will focus on (1) Evidence and (2) Scientific Inference (and its abuse). These concepts tend to be central components of any theory of “The” Scientific Method, and as a result are a bit of a hot topic at the moment. Our study of evidence will zero in on work by Alison Wylie, Elliott Sober, Adrian Currie, and Carroll Cleeland. I expect to read most of Wylie’s book, *Material Evidence*. Our study of Scientific Inference will be equally wide ranging, looking at work by Karl Popper (Falsification), Imre Lakatos (Novel Prediction), Charles Peirce (Abduction), Helen Longino (Objectivity), Bill Wimsatt (Consilience), Malcolm Forster (Agreement of Independent Measurements), Richard Royall (Likelihood), Deborah Mayo (Crucial Testing), and Angela Potochnik (Idealization). I am hoping also to read most of *Abusing Science*, by Philip Kitcher, to round out this section.

PHIL 580 counts as a course in the Methods Division of the Philosophy M.A. Program.

Philosophy 594: Chinese Philosophy: Daoism
Professor Brian Bruya
MW 11:00 – 12:15

Daoism is known as one of the three main streams of the long and complex Chinese philosophical tradition. In this course, we will focus on the two core texts of Daoism, the *Laozi* and the *Zhuangzi*.

There will be two main emphases in the course. The first will be to understand the core ideas of Daoism and how they were a challenge to mainstream philosophical ideas of early China. The second emphasis will be to bring some of these ideas into the present and understand how they can enrich the philosophical projects of today. Demystifying terminology and making sense of vague, indirect language by understanding ideas in their textual and intellectual historical context will constitute our main underlying methodology.

Philosophical topics in Daoism are especially intriguing for crossing over traditional philosophical boundaries of metaphysics, epistemology, logic, ethics, and aesthetics. In this way, they challenge us to rethink our own philosophical categories and approaches to issues in philosophy.

Prior exposure to Chinese philosophy is not required.

PHIL 594 counts as a course in the Methods Division of the Philosophy M.A. Program.

PHIL 601: First Year Seminar in Philosophy
Professor Kate Mehuron
T/Th 3:30 – 4:45

The first-year seminar in Philosophy will focus on:

- Professionalization as advanced students of Philosophy, through practice with researching, writing and revising original work, public presentations, and philosophical practices in the community
- Study of philosophical topics related to styles of philosophical writing and philosophical practices in the community

*PHIL 601 is a requirement for first-year students in the Philosophy MA program.
It is limited to first-year students in the Philosophy MA program.*
